UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,015	12/14/2001	Francois Pachet	450117-03595	8982

20999   7590   05/10/2004

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.
NEW YORK, NY   10151

EXAMINER
LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2171	5

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-57* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-57* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *14 December 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4</u>.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____ .

Specification

1.0   Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2.0   *Content of Specification*

(a)   Title of the Invention: See 37 CFR 1.72(a) and MPEP § 606. The title of the invention should be placed at the top of the first page of the specification unless the title is provided in an application data sheet. The title of the invention should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive, preferably from two to seven words may not contain more than 500 characters.

(b)   Cross-References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.

(c)   Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research and Development: See MPEP § 310.

(d)   Incorporation-By-Reference Of Material Submitted On a Compact Disc: The specification is required to include an incorporation-by-reference of electronic documents that are to become part of the permanent United States Patent and Trademark Office records in the file of a patent application. See 37 CFR 1.52(e) and MPEP § 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text were permitted as electronic documents on compact discs beginning on September 8, 2000.

Or alternatively, Reference to a "Microfiche Appendix": See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.

(e)   <u>Background of the Invention</u>: See MPEP § 608.01(c). The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:

    (1)   <u>Field of the Invention</u>: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field."

    (2)   <u>Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98</u>: A description of the related art known to the applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."

(f)   <u>Brief Summary of the Invention</u>: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.

(g)   <u>Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s)</u>: See MPEP § 608.01(f). A reference to and brief description of the drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.

(h)   <u>Detailed Description of the Invention</u>: See MPEP § 608.01(g). A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the invention adequately and accurately. Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the subject matter.

3.0   The incorporation of essential material in the specification by reference to a

foreign application or patent, or to a publication is improper. Applicant is required to amend the

disclosure to include the material incorporated by reference. The amendment must be

accompanied by an affidavit or declaration executed by the applicant, or a practitioner

representing the applicant, stating that the amendatory material consists of the same material

incorporated by reference in the referencing application. See *In re Hawkins*, 486 F.2d 569, 179

USPQ 157 (CCPA 1973); *In re Hawkins*, 486 F.2d 579, 179 USPQ 163 (CCPA 1973); and *In re

Hawkins*, 486 F.2d 577, 179 USPQ 167 (CCPA 1973).

4.0   *Claim Objection*

Claim 25 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a

multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alterative only. See MPEP

§ 608.01(n). Claims 26-28 depend from claim 25 and thus are also improper for the above

reason. Accordingly, claims 25-28 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the
subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 12, 13, 23, 25-28, 31, 51, 53 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second

paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject

matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 12, 25, 31, 41, 53 and 55, the phrase "for example" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claims 13, 26-28 are rejected for being dependent from a rejected claim.

Claim 23 recites "to create a sequence of information items in which said disliked information items tend to be removed." It is unclear whether the disliked information is removed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-14, 20, 21, 30-43, 48, 49, 53 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat No 6,088,455 issued to Logan et al (hereafter Logan).

Claims 1 and 33:

Logan discloses apparatus for storing at least one sequence of information, said information being formed of a succession of information items in which an artistic or rational link is considered to exist between at least some pairs of adjacent items in said succession, comprising:

- input means [Fig 1, 12] for receiving said sequence of information,

- storage means [Fig 2, 52] for storing said information; characterized in that it further comprises

- segmentation means for segmenting said sequence of information into individually accessible segments each corresponding to a respective information item, in response to segmentation data indicating end limits of said information items; said storage means being accessible to output said segments in a sequence corresponding to said succession of information items [col 9, lines 47-67, col 10, lines 10-20]

Claims 2 and 34:

Logan discloses wherein said received sequence of information is in the form of a data stream, said segmentation means being responsive to time information in said segmentation data indicating times of occurrence of said end limits of said information items for cutting up said stream automatically to extract said segments therefrom [col 9, lines 6-25].

Claim 3:

Logan discloses wherein said segmentation means is adapted to receive segmentation data through a second input separate from said information to be stored [col 7, lines 55-60]

Claims 4 and 35:

Logan discloses wherein said segmentations means is adapted to extract said segmentation data from a website associated to a source of said sequence of information [col 7, lines 55-60].

Claims 5 and 36:

Logan discloses wherein said segmentation means is adapted to extract said segmentation data from said sequence of information [Fig 2, 64 and col 8, lines 35-45].

Claims 6 and 37:

Logan discloses wherein said input means is adapted to receive said sequence of information in the form audio data, and wherein said segmentation means is operative to form segments each corresponding to a music title in said sequence of information [Fig 1, 12 , col 5, lines 11-43].

Claims 7 and 38:

Logan discloses wherein said input means is adapted to receive said audio data from a radio station sending a sequence of music titles in accordance with a music program [Fig 1, 12 , col 5, lines 11-43].

Claim 8:

Logan discloses wherein said input means is adapted to receive said audio data from music compilations selected and entered by a user [Fig 1, 16, col 5, line 56 – col 6, line 8].

Claim 9:

Logan discloses wherein said music compilation is in the form of a command to download from a server selected music titles in an order corresponding to a selected succession [col 5, lines 20-30].

Claims 10 and 39:

Logan discloses identification means connectable to a source of identification data

identifying information items in said sequence of information, said identification means

extracting at least some of said identification data to form an identifier, and combining means for

combining with a given segment an identifier corresponding thereto, said storage means further

being arranged to store said identifier in association with said segment [col 5, line 57 – col 6, line

8].

Claims 11 and 40:

Logan discloses wherein said identifier includes data indicative of an attribute under

which respective groups of said segments can be generically identified and classed [col 12, lines

1-14].

Claims 12 and 41:

Logan discloses wherein said attribute corresponds to at least one type under which a

music title can be classed [col 12, lines 1-14]

Claims 13 and 42:

Logan discloses wherein said identifier includes artist data indicative of an artist

associated with the corresponding music title, and said apparatus further comprises means for

deriving at least one said type on the basis of said artist data [col 12, lines 1-14].

Claims 14 and 43:

Logan discloses further comprising similarity analyzing means for producing

automatically similarity relations between stored segments in terms of their closeness in said

sequence of stored segments [Fig 4, col 12, lines 35-42].

Claims 20 and 48:

Logan discloses wherein said apparatus further comprises music program generating

means for building a sequence of information items from said stored segments [col 2, lines 24-

38].

Claims 21 and 49:

Logan discloses wherein said program generating apparatus is operative to build said

sequence of information items in response to user tastes expressed through user inputs [col 2,

lines 24-38].

Claims 30 and 57:

Logan discloses means for importing said created sequences [col 3, lines 30-42].

Claim 31:

Logan discloses playback means for receiving said segments of a selected created

sequence and expressing the data contained therein in a form intelligible to a user (e.g. music,

images, etc.) [Fig 1, 20].

Claim 32:

Logan discloses apparatus for producing at least one taste, said taste being a user taste

comprised of a sequence of information items produced by taking account feedback from said

user, or a generic taste comprised of a sequence [abstract].

Claim 53:

Logan discloses wherein said program generating step is carried out to take account of a

selected attribute (e.g. type of music) of said information items, said selected attribute being

entered through a corresponding user input, to create a sequence of information items containing

at least a preponderance of information items falling under said selected attribute [col 12, lines 1-

13].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-19, 22, 24, 44-47, 50, 52 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Logan in view of US Pat No 6,225,546 issued to Kraft et al (hereafter Kraft).

Claims 15 and 44:

Logan discloses the elements of claims 1, 14, 33 and 43 as noted above.

Logan fails to disclose wherein said similarity analyzing means produces said similarity

relations by producing, for each segment corresponding to an information item considered in a

given stored sequence, a similarity relation graph expressing a distance D between that

information item and other stored information items.

Kraft discloses wherein said similarity analyzing means produces said similarity relations

by producing, for each segment corresponding to an information item considered in a given

stored sequence, a similarity relation graph expressing a distance D between that information

item and other stored information items as taught by Kraft [Fig 5].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to modify Logan to include wherein said similarity analyzing means produces said

similarity relations by producing, for each segment corresponding to an information item

considered in a given stored sequence, a similarity relation graph expressing a distance D

between that information item and other stored information items as taught by Kraft.

The ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Logan per the above

for the purpose of generating a thumbnail of an audio segment so that the audio segment can be

recognized [Kraft, col 2, lines 15-25]

Claims 16 and 45:

The combination of Logan and Kraft discloses the elements of claims 1, 14, 15, 33, 43

and 44 as noted above.

Kraft discloses wherein said similarity relation graph contains, for each said other

information item, a closeness value determined between pairs formed by said information item

considered and said other information item [Fig 5].

Claims 17 and 46:

Logan discloses the elements of claims 1, 14, 33, 43 and 44 as noted above.

Logan fails to disclose wherein said analyzing means is arranged to calculate said

closeness value for said information item considered by attributing a first closeness value each

time said other information item appears just before or just after in said sequence, said first

values being cumulated over said sequence to yield a cumulated value indicating the closeness of

said pair of information items.

Kraft discloses wherein said analyzing means is arranged to calculate said closeness

value for said information item considered by attributing a first closeness value each time said

other information item appears just before or just after in said sequence, said first values being

cumulated over said sequence to yield a cumulated value indicating the closeness of said pair of

information items [Fig 5]

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to modify Logan to include wherein said analyzing means is arranged to calculate said

closeness value for said information item considered by attributing a first closeness value each

time said other information item appears just before or just after in said sequence, said first

values being cumulated over said sequence to yield a cumulated value indicating the closeness of

said pair of information items as taught by Kraft.

The ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Logan per the above

for the purpose of efficiently summarizing a musical composition [Kraft, col 1, line 60 – col 2,

line 6].

Claims 18 and 47:

The combination of Logan and Kraft discloses the elements of claims 1, 14, 17, 33, 43,

44 and 46 as noted above.

The combination of Logan and Kraft fails to disclose wherein said analyzing means is

further arranged to attribute a second closeness value, smaller than said first closeness value,

each time said other information item is separated from said information considered by m

separating information items, where m is an upper bounded number, said first and second values

being cumulated over said sequence to yield a cumulated value indicating the closeness said pair

of information items.

However, Kraft discloses a method of generating audio summaries of musical pieces by

means of composite hierarchical structures [abstract, Fig 5]

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to modify the combination of Logan and Kraft to include wherein said analyzing

means is further arranged to attribute a second closeness value, smaller than said first closeness

value, each time said other information item is separated from said information considered by m

separating information items, where m is an upper bounded number, said first and second values

being cumulated over said sequence to yield a cumulated value indicating the closeness said pair

of information items.

The ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Logan per the above

for the purpose of creating a brief summary of the common theme of the composition so that a

listener can recognize it [Kraft, col 2, lines 7-11].

Claim 19:

The combination of Logan and Kraft discloses the elements of claims 1, 14, 17 and 18 as

noted above.

Kraft discloses wherein said number m of separating information items is equal to one

[Fig 5].

Claims 22 and 50:

Logan discloses the elements of claims 1, 20, 33, and 48 as noted above.

Logan fails to disclose wherein said program generating apparatus is operative to build said sequence of information items in response to said similarity relations according to any one of claims 14 to 19, in which information items are concatenated taking their closeness into account.

Kraft discloses wherein said program generating apparatus is operative to build said sequence of information items in response to said similarity relations according to any one of claims 14 to 19, in which information items are concatenated taking their closeness into account [Fig 5].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Logan to include wherein said program generating apparatus is operative to build said sequence of information items in response to said similarity relations according to any one of claims 14 to 19, in which information items are concatenated taking their closeness into account as taught by Kraft.

The ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Logan per the above for the purpose of creating a summarization hierarchy [Kraft, col 10, lines 20-25]

Claims 24 and 52:

The combination of Logan and Kraft discloses the elements of claims 1, 20 and 22 as noted above.

Logan discloses wherein said program generating means (48, 50) is further responsive to said similarity relations to create a sequence of information items in which information items close to disliked information items are de-emphasized and/or in which information items close to liked information items are emphasized [col 2, lines 30-38].

Claim 55:

Logan discloses the elements of claims 33, 48, 49, 53 and 54 as noted above.

Logan fails to disclose wherein said program generating step is further carried out taking
into account said similarity relation relations such that a said information item not falling under a
said selected attribute (e.g. type of music) is entered in said created sequence if and where it has
a predetermined degree of closeness, as determined by said similarity relations, with an adjacent
information item of said sequence.

However, Kraft discloses a music style indicator [col 9, line 59 – col 10, line 2].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention
was made to modify the combination of Logan and Kraft to include wherein said program
generating step is further carried out taking into account said similarity relation relations such
that a said information item not falling under a said selected attribute (e.g. type of music) is
entered in said created sequence if and where it has a predetermined degree of closeness, as
determined by said similarity relations, with an adjacent information item of said sequence.

The ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify the combination of
Logan and Kraft per the above for the purpose of categorizing the music in the database.

Claims 23 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan
in view of US Pat No 6,558,015 issued to Eyer et al (hereafter Eyer), as best examiner is able to
ascertain.

Claims 23 and 51:

Logan discloses the elements of claims 1, 20, 21, 33,48 and 49 as noted above.

Logan fails to disclose wherein said program generating means is responsive to a user input expressing a like or dislike, associated to at least some information items in said succession of information items, to create a sequence of information items in which said disliked information items tend to be removed and liked information items are emphasized.

Eyer discloses wherein said program generating means is responsive to a user input expressing a like or dislike, associated to at least some information items in said succession of information items, to create a sequence of information items in which said disliked information items tend to be removed and liked information items are emphasized [col 8, lines 32-44].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Logan to include wherein said program generating means is responsive to a user input expressing a like or dislike, associated to at least some information items in said succession of information items, to create a sequence of information items in which said disliked information items tend to be removed and liked information items are emphasized as taught by Eyer.

The ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Logan per the above for the purpose customizing digital audio received from a radio station [Eyer, col 8, lines 32-44]

Claims 29 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of US Pat No 6,083,009 issued to Kim et al (hereafter Kim).

Claims 29 and 56:

Logan discloses the elements of claims 1, 20, 33, 48, and 49 as noted above.

Logan fails to disclose wherein said program generating means comprises means for

labeling and storing said created sequences as objects which can be selectively exported outside

said apparatus.

Kim discloses wherein said program generating means comprises means for labeling and

storing said created sequences as objects which can be selectively exported outside said

apparatus [Fig 4, step 109,col 5, lines 45-62].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to modify Logan to include wherein said program generating means comprises means

for labeling and storing said created sequences as objects which can be selectively exported

outside said apparatus as taught by Kim.

The ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Logan per the above

for the purpose of making the music list available at a remote site.

Claim 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan

Claim 54:

Logan discloses the elements of claims 33, 48, 49 and 53.

Logan fails to disclose wherein said program generating step is carried out to create a

sequence of information items taking into account said selected attributes associated to said

information items, and wherein said program generating step is further carried out to take into

account a discovery parameter entered through a user input, expressing a degree of accepted

departure from said at least a preponderance of information items falling under said selected

attribute, whereby said discovery parameter can be set to a first value in which said

preponderance is maximal, possibly total, and to a second value, in which said sequence also

contains a certain proportion P of information items not falling under said selected attribute.

However, Logan discloses customized features can be provided to the user in a learning

mode [col 8, lines 32-34]

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to modify Logan to include wherein said program generating step is carried out to

create a sequence of information items taking into account said selected attributes associated to

said information items, and wherein said program generating step is further carried out to take

into account a discovery parameter entered through a user input, expressing a degree of accepted

departure from said at least a preponderance of information items falling under said selected

attribute, whereby said discovery parameter can be set to a first value in which said

preponderance is maximal, possibly total, and to a second value, in which said sequence also

contains a certain proportion P of information items not falling under said selected attribute.

The ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Logan per the above

for the purpose of indicating specific user preferences [col 8, line 34]

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Etienne LeRoux whose telephone number is (703) 305-0620.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

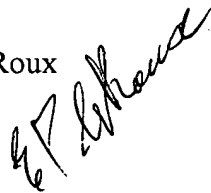supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (703) 308-1436.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Patent related correspondence can be forwarded via the following FAX number (703)

872-9306

Etienne LeRoux

5/4/2004